

## 2017–2018 Report to Donors

# **Annual Status Report** of the National Leadership Program

Submitted To:
RespectAbility Donors

**Submitted By:** 

RespectAbility

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi and Ben Spangenberg www.RespectAbility.org

**December 11, 2018** 



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Dear Major Donors,

Thank you for your generous and continued support of RespectAbility! A key part of our work is our National Leadership Program for talented young leaders with and without disabilities.

It's important to build a diverse, talented leadership pipeline of people with disabilities and their allies. These young leaders will impact how our country views, respects and welcomes the participation of people with disabilities. Whether these Fellows go on to work in government, journalism, entertainment, or nonprofit management, through setting up future leaders for success in varied fields, we can help end stigma across multiple sectors.

Because of your support and that of others, we recruited, trained and empowered 36 National Leadership Fellows this year. This is a significant increase over the 26 we trained last year. We also were able to advance critical work on behalf of people with disabilities. Below is our progress report for our National Leadership Program for 2017–2018.

In this report, you will find a comprehensive review of the successes, growth and challenges the National Leadership Program has experienced in the past year. And again, thank you for your support in enabling us to train the future of our country's leaders.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi President

RespectAbility

Ben Spangenberg

Director, National Leadership Program RespectAbility

RespectAbility Board of Directors and Advisors (in alpha order): Steve Bartlett, Vivian Bass, Linda Burger, Ollie Cantos, Eleanor Clift, Shelley Cohen, Judith Creed, Heidi Daroff, Randall Duchesneau, Andrew Egan, Gabrielle Einstein-Sim, Rick Guidotti, Calvin Harris, Richard Phillips, Neil Jacobson, Janie Jeffers, Evelyn Kelley, Janet LaBreck, Dana Marlowe, Donna Meltzer, Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, Jonathan Murray, Aaron Orlofsky, Gerard Robinson, Robert Schwartz, Dee Soder, Thomas Sweitzer, Steven James Tingus, Donna Walton and Delbert Whetter.

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## 1. Program Content



Spring 2018 Fellows learning from Judy Heumann and Victor Pineda

Our four measurable goals and outcomes are: 1) the National Leadership Program will provide intensive job-training in strategic communications for at least 24 college students and graduates each year as well as education for thousands of others via social media; 2) participants will directly help RespectAbility's work on inclusive employment, stigma reduction and faith inclusion; 3) the Program will develop a successful model to enable college graduates with disabilities to successfully secure jobs with career ladders; and 4) the Program will develop confident leaders and self-advocates trained to solve issues for people with disabilities in the future. We exceeded all our goals. We recruited and trained bright, creative, diverse, results-driven young leaders who achieved breakthrough results while receiving hands-on experience and contacts that will advance both their careers and the objectives of the disability community.

## 2. Benchmarks

## 2.1. Skills Taught

We had three groups (cohorts) of Fellows during the year. The cohort structure of our program allows us to grow, evolve and improve year after year. Over the course of the year, Fellows heard from 32 speakers who are active in disability advocacy, policy, communications, philanthropy, strategic communications, the entertainment industry, the faith community, and more. Guest speakers included CEOs and presidents of foundations and major consortiums and policy groups including the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), corporate employers of people with disabilities, journalists, and the disability organizations such as the National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils (NACDD).

The Fellows learned key information about our issue areas from these speakers. Before each speaker, a Fellow introduced the guest speaker in front of the group, giving them the opportunity

to practice public speaking skills in a low-stress environment. Fellows <u>wrote and published blogs</u> about each speaker after the presentation. Some Fellows further advanced their public speaking skills via internal presentations on a topic of their choice, including diversity, intersectionality and living with their disability. Speakers and staff taught Fellows core office and advocacy skills, including online research skills, Excel, PowerPoint, writing, publishing, social media outreach, event management, sending out large mailings and cold calling. Fellows utilized these learned skills in their everyday tasks and during special events.

## 2.2. Major Progress on Employment for People with Disabilities

RespectAbility was thrilled to see that the strong economy, plus good work by us and others, is finally translating to more jobs for people with disabilities. This past year there was a 400 percent improvement in new jobs for people with disabilities (from 87,000 jobs to 343,000+ jobs). In fact, because of the Fellows' work, RespectAbility's efforts on jobs for people with disabilities were highlighted in <u>Digital Journal</u> and more than 230 other media outlets.

## 2.3. Personal Writing Coach

Stan Goldman, PhD, a former college English professor and previous Program Director for Disabilities at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, continued his role as the Fellows' personal writing coach. He is exceptionally talented, insightful and good with the diverse young leaders with disabilities. He helped them dramatically improve their writing skills. Stan teaches a writing class once a week and is online every evening to edit the Fellows' writing.

## 2.4. Conference Speaking and Webinars

Two of our Fellows <u>spoke</u> at our annual summit on Capitol Hill, which was attended by 200 people in person and watched by more than 1,000 online. Fellows also played a role in promoting and running the event. They also played a role in planning and preparing six webinars this year on employment for people with disabilities, stigma reduction and Jewish inclusion.

## 2.5. Major Events and Publications This Year

Our National Leadership Fellows played a key role in the success of several major projects and publications. For example, with the Fellows' support, we created and released a community resource guide, which is part of a larger project to increase education and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Long Beach, California as a replica model of success. With guidance from staff, Fellows researched, wrote and edited this resource guide, which will help people with disabilities achieve economic independence. Currently, only 21 percent of Long Beach residents with disabilities have jobs in the community compared to the national average of 34 percent. The guide covers a range of topics important to individuals with disabilities, families that have children with disabilities, parent advocates and service providers.

In March, our staff, board and Fellows wrote and released our <u>Hollywood Disability Inclusion</u> <u>Toolkit</u>. The toolkit is a first-of-its-kind primer for entertainment professionals and covers a wide array of key issues in an easy-to-read format. The toolkit also includes comprehensive resources,

including where to hire performers with disabilities and people with disabilities behind the scenes, as well as training programs for minorities. Additional sources include audio description, closed captioning services, sign language interpreters and employment resources, including business-focused disability organizations. Fellows played an integral part in the creation of the toolkit, from research and drafting to publicizing and marketing the final product. The guide earned fantastic press in the two main Hollywood publications: *Variety* and the *Hollywood Reporter*. View the toolkit: www.respectability.org/hollywood-inclusion.

"Empowering Job Seekers with Disabilities in NYC" was this year's key seminar as part of our major work in New York city on jobs for people with disabilities. Fellows helped plan this daylong training seminar and helped recruit more than 30 key stakeholders. Between January and June 2018, Fellows helped to coordinate outreach to more than 120 workforce system providers based in the New York City metropolitan area, performed economic analyses of job gains among people with disabilities, and researched applicable best practices for partner organizations. Fellows helped write a thorough report with recommendations to improve the capacity of New York-based workforce programs to serve job seekers with disabilities.

RespectAbility's Fellows played a major role in our first of its kind resources in Spanish for parents of children with disabilities. These <u>resources</u> are important because close to five million people with disabilities in America are a part of the Latinx community and more than 1.4 million students with disabilities are also Latinx. These new resources can be found here: <u>www.respectability.org/espanol.</u> This work was ultimately showcased in a special segment on CNN Español, one of the largest Spanish-language media providers in the Americas: <u>cnnespanol.cnn.com/video/respectability-guia-padres-discapacidades-cafe-cnnee/.</u>

#### 2.6. Faith/Jewish Inclusion

RespectAbility has a special focus on Jewish inclusion and Fellows wrote original pieces and lifted up terrific work. Moreover, RespectAbility did a <u>major national study</u> on Jewish inclusion that is already making a big impact. Soon we will put out specific data for New York City, Washington, D.C., and Houston. Each week we put out materials on Jewish inclusion. We also have a targeted Twitter and Facebook following on that topic. Thousands of Jews, including Jewish media, receive emails from us, through our weekly "Shabbat Smiles."

#### 2.7. Social Media

Throughout the year, Fellows led our social media efforts. In keeping with RespectAbility's focus on empowering people with disabilities from multiple marginalized communities, our Fellows conducted campaigns and wrote original pieces around <u>LGBT Pride</u> Month (June), <u>Black History Month</u> (February) and <u>Hispanic Heritage</u> Month (September / October). Fellows interviewed and profiled amazing individuals who are at the intersection of those communities and disability communities. Additionally, our Fellow Eric Ascher, after creating a month-long campaign for LGBT Pride month, was interviewed by Accessible Media, Inc., a Canadian radio station where he detailed his ideas behind the campaign.

#### 2.8. Job Outcomes from National Leadership Program

Since 2013, the National Leadership Program has trained 133 Fellows. We have a 90 percent success rate, defined as alumni are either working or studying in college or graduate school.

We could not be prouder of our Fellows. Of the 36 who graduated, 30 are either still in college or graduate school or have found jobs. Six are actively looking for work with our help. Our alumni this year are working in diverse places such as Rutgers University Foundation, Economic Policy Institute, EPIC Technical Services (healthcare), Montgomery County Circuit Court and the Association of Chambers of Commerce. Two are paid as teaching assistants in graduate schools. Fellows from previous years have secured jobs at such diverse places as AmeriCorps; the National Disability Institute; Easterseals; the White House; U.S. Congress, World Bank; the Departments of State, Treasury, Education and Defense; and the Veterans Administration.

Additionally, in a first ever success for our Fellowship, one of our alumni is now a Fulbright student. She is pursuing a project that is directly disability related. View more information here: <a href="https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/media/pressreleases/2018/0503.html">www1.villanova/media/pressreleases/2018/0503.html</a>.

## 2.9. Internal Hiring of Alumni

RespectAbility was able to hire two former Fellows with disabilities to our permanent staff. We now have hired four former Fellows over the life of the Fellowship. We always are excited to see our Fellows succeed in finding full-time employment. It is even sweeter when they find a home here at RespectAbility. One of the new hires is bilingual (English and Spanish) and a Little Person. The other is on the Autism Spectrum and is Jewish. Both are very talented.

## 2.10. Uniqueness

The National Leadership Program is unique because it trains youth with and without disabilities while focused on teaching them policy, political outreach on Capitol Hill, social media, strategic communications, event planning, fundraising and volunteer recruitment. It is the longest internship for people with disabilities that we know of – up to 16 weeks. And our internship is the only one that includes a personal writing coach, personal aides and accommodations. Our Program Director uses a wheelchair and identifies with several disability and minority communities. He serves as a role model for the Fellows and effectively recruits new Fellows.

Additionally, over the past year we have developed a close, cooperative relationship with The Washington Center (TWC). TWC is an independent, nonprofit organization facilitates internship opportunities for college students in the Washington, D.C., area. We have a reciprocal relationship with TWC in which we have advise them on best practices for recruiting students with disabilities while they in turn have provided us with a pipeline of quality candidates.

The Fellows have, in effect, a faculty of seven staff: The President, Jennifer Lazlo Mizrahi; the Program Director, Ben Spangenberg; the Director of Policy, Philip Kahn-Pauli; the Director of Communications, Lauren Appelbaum; the Development Director, Franklin Anderson; the Director of Community Impact and Volunteering, Debbie Fink; and the Writing Coach, Stan

Goldman. The program is not only an advocacy and leadership program but also a job placement program because of our network in Washington, D.C., and the disability community. The National Leadership Program also teaches the basics of working in the philanthropy and nonprofit sector – from learning how to understand an audited financial statement to writing Letters of Inquiry and PowerPoint decks to potential funders.

#### 2.11. Accommodations

When Fellows need accommodations, we meet their needs whenever possible. For example, we have had visually-impaired fellows who use accessible technology, so we make sure that all documents are in the proper format. We provide a personal care assistant and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters when necessary. In the current cohort, one Fellow is both Deaf and nonverbal and several other fellows have multiple other disabilities. All are talented.

#### 2.12. Participation

This year we served 36 young leaders: 22 identify as people with disabilities, 22 are people of color, nine are members of the LGBTQ community, five are Jewish, 23 are female and 13 are male. More than 900 people participated in webinars organized by the Fellows during 2017 - 2018, and an additional 200+ people participated in-person in our working groups in California. More than 100,000 people are on our email list, and we have more than 60,000 Facebook fans. Fellows find contact information, invite individuals to the webinars and assist with our social media. The attendance at our annual event on Capitol Hill doubled, with more than 200 registered guests. It was the first time the annual conference was live on Facebook, where it was watched by more than 1,600 people so far. Fellows also recorded and edited conference sessions, posting them on Vimeo and YouTube with captions to ensure accessibility for future audiences.

## 2.13. Strategic Planning

Our board continues to get stronger. Our most recent chair Cal Harris added to our success. Steve Bartlett recently took over as Chairman. He is the former Mayor of Dallas and served in Congress for many years. He co-authored several major pieces of legislation including the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our Treasurer is now the fabulous Linda Burger from Houston. This year we added three new staff positions and two of the three new staff members are former National Leadership Fellows.

## 2.14. Marketing and Recruitment

Since day one, we have recruited through online ads, top colleges, Hillels and more. We also have created new lists and connections to find potential Fellows from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges, Multicultural Fraternities/Sororities, historically Hispanic-serving schools, New York City and California disability organizations, top policy schools, nonprofit management schools, the top college programs for acting and film, as well as the top 50 most disability friendly schools to support our Fellowship recruitment. These lists, which include career services, disability services and program staff, also were shared with other disability organizations to help diversify their talent recruitment.

Because we pay some of our Fellows, RespectAbility received more than 100 applications for the Summer 2017 Cohort. We still were able to fill the program, but we did lose some of our best applicants because we could not pay all of them. It is vital for us to raise more money specifically to pay Fellows who are qualified but cannot afford unpaid Fellowships.

#### 3. Overall Success

#### As one graduating Fellows wrote this year in a thank you note:

"This was an incredible Fellowship. I spoke to members of Congress, wrote blogs, did my first press release, learned how to actually write, and I saw my first real budget of a nonprofit. I learned about other disabilities, and the staff gave me insights on the professional world and life in general. The time and guidance from Lauren, Philip, Stan, Jennifer, Debbie, Elizabeth and Frank were beyond what any of my friends in other internships received."

Here are some of the Fellows' responses to the question "What is the most important thing you learned during the Fellowship?"

- I gained more ability to work in a group setting as well as more confidence.
- Advocacy in the sense of disability politics, especially communication and accessibility.
- Everything about the disability community.
- Useable facts about disability issues.
- How to maintain a professional demeanor in an office. Networking. Skill building.
- How to deal with workplace disagreements while remaining professional. Further, the importance of making power points that are short, specific, and not too wordy.
- Disability is important.
- How to work on a team and negotiate and communicate and how to handle constructive criticism.

Most importantly, the Fellowship creates a personal network for life.

## 4. How You Can Contribute

The success of the National Leadership Program and our Fellows is made possible by grantmakers including the Ford Foundation and the Stanford and Joan Alexander Foundations, as well as by donors like you. To make the National Leadership Program an exceptional experience, we require substantial financial resources to cover the cost of the program and paying highly qualified young leaders from marginalized backgrounds.

We are seeking more support. There continues to be a huge demand for our services, and even more capacity building is needed quickly. Governors, policy makers, Hollywood decision-makers and others are eager for our insights, contacts and services. Overall, we are not having problems getting in the door of these decision-makers, but we have trouble keeping up with their needs, interests and demands. Our capacity is extremely limited because of our small

staff, and we will need additional funds to grow. We recently attempted to close a major gift from Chan-Zuckerberg and Rockefeller as part of a contest. More than 1,800 nonprofits entered the contest. We made it to the last 60 groups as semi-finalists but did not win. We now are reaching out intently to find new donors and would appreciate your help on that front.

Please consider making a gift to benefit the professional development, experiential learning, and life-changing opportunity for our Fellows and our work overall. You can visit our website and make a gift at <a href="RespectAbility.org/Donate">RespectAbility.org/Donate</a>, mail a gift to our offices at 11333 Woodglen Dr. Suite 102, Rockville, MD 20852, or reach our President Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi at <a href="JenniferM@RespectAbility.org">JenniferM@RespectAbility.org</a> or at (202) 365-0787 for more options or to answer any questions.

We are thrilled with the success of this program. Thank you for believing in us and for making the National Leadership Program and other parts of RespectAbility's work possible!

#### 5. Additional Information

#### 5.1. Fall 2017 Cohort



Fall 2017 Fellows with Board Member Vivian Bass and Sean and Sandra McElwee of Born This Way

Fellow Name	Link to Bio	Fellowship
Brooke Castagna	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/brooke-castagna-program-development-and-fundraising-fellow/	Development
Christopher Coleman	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/christopher-coleman-policy-fellow-2/	Policy
Adam Fishbein	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/adam-fishbein-policy-fellow/	Policy
Julie Lun	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/julie-lun-policy-fellow/	Policy
Theresa Maher	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/theresa-maher-communications-fellow/	Communications

Fellow Name	Link to Bio	Fellowship
Jeanette Marquez	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/jeanette-marquez-public-policy-fellow/	Policy
Zein Al Maha Oweis	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/zein-al-maha- communications-fellow/	Communications
Adam Srayi	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/adam-srayi-policy-fellow/	Policy
Katie Townes	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/katie-townes- communications-fellow/	Communications
Julia Wood	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/julia-wood-communications-fellow/	Communications

## 5.2. Spring 2018 Cohort



Spring 2018 Fellows with Lenny Larsen, internationally recognized producer and director

Fellow Name	Link to Bio	Fellowship
Eric Ascher	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/eric-ascher-communications-fellow/	Communications
Adrienne Baez	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/adrienne-baez-policy-fellow/	Policy
Sarah Bram	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/sarah-bram-communications-fellow/	Communications
Emily Counts	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/emily-counts-development-fundraising-fellow/	Development
Ana Lucia Figueroa	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/ana-lucia-figueroa-policy-fellow/	Policy
Ryan Knight	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/ryan-knight-communications-fellow/	Communications

Fellow Name	Link to Bio	Fellowship
Bryan Munguia	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/bryan-munguia- communications-fellow/	Communications
Jaimie Ninan	https://www.respectability.org/2018/04/jaimie-ninan/	Policy
Nicholas Olson	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/nicholas-olson-policy-fellow/	Policy
Juliet Arcila Rojas	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/juliet-arcila-rojas-development-fundraising-fellow/	Development
Richelle Ross	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/richelle-ross-development-fellow/	Development
Tameir Yeheyes	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/tameir-yeheyes- communications-fellow/	Communications
Steve Bobadilla	https://www.respectability.org/2018/04/steve-bobadilla/	Communications

## **5.3. Summer 2018 Cohort**



Summer 2018 Fellows and Staff with RespectAbility Chairman Steve Bartlett

Fellow Name	Link to Bio	Fellowship
Victoria Grace Assokom-Siakam	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/victoria-grace-assokom-siakam	Development
Lily Cantor	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/lily-cantor-2/	Communications
Christina Revilla Chacon	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/christina-revilla- chacon/	Policy
Molly Donald	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/molly-donald/	Policy
Kaity Hagen	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/kaity-hagen/	Communications

Fellow Name	Link to Bio	Fellowship
Mannela Iparraguire	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/mannela- iparraguirre/	Policy
Daniel Kawecki	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/daniel-kawecki- communications-	Communications
Daniela Nieves	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/daniela-nieves/	Policy
Thomas Noh	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/thomas-noh/	Communications
Rachael Walloga	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/rachael-walloga	Development
Zavier Taylor	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/zavier-taylor/	Communications

## **5.4. Fellows Blogs**

## 5.4.1. Posts About Fellows Speakers, by Fellows

Fellows Speaker	Link to Blog	Date
Sean McElwee	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/seanese-talk-sean-sandra-mcelwee-aes-born-way/	October 7, 2017
Heidi Daroff	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/heidi-daroff-using-social-media-to-inform-and-campaign/	January 26, 2018
Donna Meltzer	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/donna-meltzer-an-advocate-for-community-living/	February 6, 2018
Steve Bartlett	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/steve-bartlett- becoming-a-better-advocate-someone-whos-been-there/	February 15, 2018
Derek Shields	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/derek-shields-the-importance-of-mentoring/	February 21, 2018
Elaine Katz	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/elaine-katz-promoting-transparency-in-the-grant-making-process/	February 27, 2018
Rodney Hood	https://www.respectability.org/2018/03/rodney-hood-an-ally-in-disability-employment-and-inclusion/	March 13, 2018
Michael Murray	https://www.respectability.org/2018/03/michael-murray-advice-for-job-applicants-with-disabilities/	March 16, 2018
Aaron Dorfman	https://www.respectability.org/2018/03/aaron-dorfman-serving-the-public-good-not-private-interests/	March 20, 2018
Geoffrey Melada	https://www.respectability.org/2018/04/geoffrey-melada-the-power-of-storytelling-to-build-your-brand/	April 10, 2018
Dana Marlowe	https://www.respectability.org/2018/04/dana-marlowe- ensuring-online-accessibility-for-all/	April 12, 2018
Eleanor Clift	https://www.respectability.org/2018/04/eleanor-clift-importance-of-raising-awareness-for-the-disability-community/	April 18, 2018
Lenny Larsen	https://www.respectability.org/2018/05/lenny-larsen-get-out-there-and-be-the-change-you-want-to-see/	May 4, 2018
Geoffrey Melada	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/geoffrey-melada-the-importance-of-storytelling/	June 7 <sup>,</sup> 2018
Debra Ruh	https://www.respectability.org/2018/07/debra-ruh-were-better-when-were-together/	July 10, 2018
Steve Bartlett	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/steve-bartlett-learning-to-play-on-the-field/	July 14, 2018

Fellows Speaker	Link to Blog	Date
Gary Norman	https://www.respectability.org/2018/07/gary-c-normans-advice-on-inclusion/	July 16, 2018
Richard Phillips	https://www.respectability.org/2018/07/richard-phillips-teaches-respectability-fellows-about-leadership/	July 25, 2018
Doreen Thomas	https://www.respectability.org/2018/07/doreen-thomas-of-the-t-howard-foundation-on-promoting-diversity-in-media-difference-empowers/	July 26, 2018
Kenneth Marcus	https://www.respectability.org/2018/09/kenneth-marcus-addresses-importance-of-inclusion-of-students-with-disabilities/	July 30, 2018
Johnny Collett	https://www.respectability.org/2018/09/johnny-collett-calls-for-high-expectations-for-students-with-disabilities/	July 30, 2018
Ollie, Steven, Nick and Leo Cantos	https://www.respectability.org/2018/09/breaking-the-glass-ceiling-with-ollie-cantos-and-triplets-steven-nick-and-leo/	July 30, 2018
Judy Woodruff	https://www.respectability.org/2018/09/honoring-judy- woodruffs-dedication-to-disability-representation-in-media/	July 30, 2018
Donna Walton, Clarence Page, Stephanie Farfan, Kaity Hagen	https://www.respectability.org/2018/09/show-up-and-blend-life-at-the-intersection-of-disability-and-multiple-identities%e2%80%a8/	July 30, 2018
Joe Shapiro	https://www.respectability.org/2018/09/joe-shapiro-honored- for-his-coverage-of-people-with-disabilities/	July 30, 2018
Jennifer Sheehy	https://www.respectability.org/2018/08/jennifer-sheehy/	July 30, 2018
Rep. Brad Sherman	https://www.respectability.org/2018/09/rep-brad-sherman- enables-people-with-disabilities-to-advocate-for-a-better- future/	July 30, 2018
Jeanette Betancourt, Rachel Dretzin, Crystal Emery, Jonathan Murray, Andrew Solomon	https://www.respectability.org/2018/09/fighting-implicit-bias-through-film-and-television/	July 30, 2018
Judy Heumann	https://www.respectability.org/2018/08/disability-legend-judy-heumann-disability-is-a-diversity-issue/	August 7, 2018
Rodney Hood	https://www.respectability.org/2018/08/from-passive-to-active-rodney-hood-on-community-development-for-people-with-disabilities/	August 8, 2018

## 5.4.2. Additional Blog Posts and News Articles Written by Fellows

Blog Title	Link to Blog	Date
This Is Us Tackles Obesity, Mental Health and Alcoholism	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/us-tackles-obesity- mental-health-alcoholism/	September 28, 2017
Speechless: Disability is not an Excuse	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/speechless-disability-not-excuse/	September 29, 2017
Dancing with the Stars Shines Light on Disability	https://www.respectability.org/2017/09/dancing-stars-shines- light-disability/	September 29, 2017

Blog Title	Link to Blog	Date
From Rags to Riches: Overcoming the Odds with Sheldon Adelson	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/rags-riches- overcoming-odds-sheldon-adelson/	October 2, 2017
Daymond John: Clothing Entrepreneur and "Shark Tank" Star with Dyslexia	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/daymond-john-clothing-entrepreneur-shark-tank-star-dyslexia/	October 2, 2017
Richard Branson: Dyslexia is an Opportunity	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/richard-branson-dyslexia-opportunity/	October 3, 2017
Shark Tank Entrepreneur Barbara Corcoran Proves Dyslexics Can Be Successful	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/shark-tank- entrepreneur-barbara-corcoran-proves-dyslexics-can-be- successful/	October 3, 2017
Shark Kevin O'Leary Calls Dyslexia His Superpower	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/shark-kevin-oleary-calls-dyslexia-superpower/	October 3, 2017
Disabled Vets Leads Restaurant, Hires Other Vets with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/disabled-vet-leads- restaurant-hires-other-vets-with-disabilities/	October 3, 2017
Guilty Pleasures Night Includes Knock-Out Performances By Two Contestants with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/guilty-pleasures-night-includes-knock-performances-two-contestants-disabilities/	October 6, 2017
Speechless Puts the Spotlight on Inclusive Education	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/speechless-puts-spotlight-inclusive-education/	October 8, 2017
Cristina Sanz: First Hispanic with a Disability to Win an Emmy Award	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/cristina-sanz-first-hispanic-with-disability-to-win-emmy/	October 15, 2017
Demi Lovato Uses Star Power to Fight Stigmas and Advance Opportunities for People with Mental Illness	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/demi-lovato-uses-star-power-fight-stigmas-advance-opportunities-people-mental-illness/	October 15, 2017
Frida Kahlo, Self Portrait Painter, Showcases Disability in Her Art	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/frida-kahlo-self-portrait-painter-showcases-disability-art/	October 15, 2017
Gina Rodriguez, Star of Jane the Virgin, Opens Up About Her Anxiety	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/gina-rodriguez-star- jane-virgin-opens-anxiety/	October 15, 2017
Jeison Aristizabal – CNN Hero of the Year 2016 and Nonprofit Founder with Cerebral Palsy	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/jeison-aristizabal-cnn-hero-year-2016-nonprofit-founder-cerebral-palsy/	October 15, 2017

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Fast and Furious Actress Michelle Rodriguez Cities ADD as Motivation for Success	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/fast-furious-actress-michelle-rodriguez-cites-add-motivation-success/	October 15, 2017
Selena Gomez Serves as Role Model for Young Women with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/selena-gomez-serves-role-model-young-women-disabilities/	October 15, 2017
Salma Hayek, Role Model for Latina Women with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/salma-hayek-role-model-latina-women-disabilities/	October 15, 2017
Scholar and Activist Victor Pineda Creates Change for Latinos with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/scholar-activist-victor-pineda-creates-change-latinos-disabilities/	October 16, 2017
National Employment & Disability Survey Shows Few Companies Have "Disability" as a Part of Their Diversity Efforts	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/disability-survey-shows-companies-disability-part-diversity-efforts/	October 17, 2017
The Tichenor Clinic: A Pillar of the Long Beach Community Focusing on Children with Disabilities From Birth	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/tichenor-clinic-pillar-long-beach-community-focusing-children-disabilities-birth/	October 19, 2017
Speechless: Gaining Independence Through Support Aides and Freedom to Fail	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/speechless-gaining- independence-support-aides-freedom-fail/	October 23, 2017
This Is Us Unravels Stigma around Anxiety, Health and Addiction	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/us-unravels-stigma- around-anxiety-health-addiction/	October 23, 2017
Crazy Ex-Girlfriend Tackles Stigma on Mental Health, Therapy	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/crazy-ex-girlfriend-tackles-stigma-mental-health-therapy/	October 23, 2017
Senators Discuss Opioid Painkillers Overdose Epidemic	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2017/10/27/senators-discuss-opiod-painkillers-overdose-epidemic/	October 27, 2017
Senators Discuss Opioid Painkillers Overdose Epidemic	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2017/10/27/senators-discuss-opiod-painkillers-overdose-epidemic/	October 27, 2017
This is Us Plunges into the Epidemic of Opioid Misuse Disorder	https://www.respectability.org/2017/10/us-plunges-epidemic- opioid-misuse-disorder/	October 28, 2017

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The Stramski Children's Development Center Offers a Variety of Programs for Children with Neurodevelopmental, Genetic, Craniofacial and Psychological Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/stramski-childrens-development-center/	November 7, 2017
Michael Patrick King, Emmy Winning Creative Behind Norm-Bending Television	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/michael-patrick-king- emmy-winning-creative-behind-norm-bending-television/	November 18, 2017
Telsey & Company Wins Casting Award for Inclusive Casting of Actors with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/telsey-company-wins-casting-award-inclusive-casting-actors-disabilities/	November 18, 2017
Wonder Director Stephen Chbosky Calls for More Inclusive Casting of People with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/wonder-director-stephen-chbosky-calls-inclusive-casting-people-disabilities/	November 18, 2017
David Hoberman and Todd Lieberman Pledge to Cast More Actors with Disabilities in Films	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/david-hoberman-and-todd-lieberman-pledge-to-cast-more-actors-with-disabilities-in-films/	November 18, 2017
Norman Lear Receives Standing Ovation at Media Access Awards	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/norman-lear-receives-standing-ovation-media-access-awards/	November 18, 2017
Fern Field Honored for Lifetime of Work Devoted to Disability Inclusion in Media	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/fern-field-honored-lifetime-work-devoted-disability-inclusion-media/	November 18, 2017
Grey's Anatomy Star Jason George Fighting for Equal Rights of All People in Entertainment	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/greys-anatomy-star- jason-george-fighting-equal-rights-people-entertainment/	November 18, 2017
Aziz Ansari and Alan Yang, Pushing the Envelope on Diversity and Inclusion in Hollywood	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/aziz-ansari-alan-yang-pushing-envelope-diversity-inclusion-hollywood/	November 18, 2017
Jamie Brewer, Actress and Advocate, Shines as Media Access Awards Presenter	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/jamie-brewer-actress-advocate-shines-media-access-awards-presenter/	November 18, 2017
Nic Novicki: Creating Change from Within	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/nic-novicki-creating-change-within/	November 18, 2017

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Amy Okuda Presents Award to Atypical Creator for Portraying Disability Narrative	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/amy-okuda-presents-award-atypical-creator-portraying-disability-narrative/	November 18, 2017
Robia Rashid – Writer and Producer, Creater of Atypical Calls for More Stories of Inclusion and Diversity	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/robia-rashid-writer-producer-creator-atypical-calls-stories-inclusion-diversity/	November 18, 2017
Actress and Paralympic Katy Sullivan Presents Award to Mickey Rowe at the Media Access Awards	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/actress-paralympic-katy-sullivan-presents-award-mickey-rowe-media-access-awards/	November 18, 2017
Mickey Rowe Awarded for Becoming First Actor with Autism to Perform in The Curious Incident	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/mickey-rowe-awarded-becoming-first-actor-autism-perform-curious-incident-dog-night-time/	November 18, 2017
The Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Long Beach	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/regional-hispanic-chamber-commerce/	November 20, 2017
Ruderman Foundation Honored at Media Access Awards, Continues Work Through Inclusion Summit	https://www.respectability.org/2017/11/ruderman-foundation-honored-media-access-awards-continues-work-inclusion-summit/	November 22, 2017
Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living Paves a Pathway for Youth with Disabilities in Long Beach	https://www.respectability.org/2017/12/southern-california-resource-services-independent-living-paves-pathway-youth-disabilities-long-beach/	December 12, 2017
The Harbor Regional Center: Serving People with Developmental Disabilities Throughout Life	https://www.respectability.org/2017/12/harbor-regional-center/	December 19, 2017
RespectAbility Submits Comments to New York State Board of Regent to Promote the Success of Students with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/respectability-submits-comments-to-new-york-state-boards-of-regent-to-promote-the-success-of-students-with-disabilities/	January 19, 2018
The Fosters Tackles Low Expectations for Students with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/fosters-tackles-low-expectations-students-disabilities/	January 20, 2018

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RespectAbility Recommends New Strategies to Promote the Success of Youth with Disabilities on Benefits	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/respectability-recommends-new-strategies-to-promote-the-success-of-youth-with-disabilities-on-benefits/	January 26, 2018
Murphy Learns a Lesson in Discrimination	https://www.respectability.org/2018/01/murphy-learns-lesson-discrimination/	January 29, 2018
Missy 'Misdemeanor' Elliott 'Works it,' Serves as Role Model for Young Women with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/missy-misdemeanor-elliott-works-it-serves-as-role-model-for-young-women-with-disabilities/	February 2, 2018
Solange Knowles: Role Model for African American Performers with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/solange-knowles-role-model-african-american-performers-disabilities/	February 2, 2018
Whoopi Goldberg: Talented Actress, Comedienne and Talk Show Host Lives with Dyslexia	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/whoopi-goldberg-talented-actress-comedienne-talk-show-host-lives-dyslexia/	February 3, 2018
Halle Berry: Living with Disability While Taking a Stand against Domestic Violence	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/halle-berry-living-disability-taking-stand-domestic-violence/	February 3, 2018
Maya Angelou, Legendary Poet and Civil Rights Activist Who Had Disability, Inspires Generations	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/maya-angelou- legendary-poet-civil-rights-activist-disability-inspires- generations/	February 4, 2018
Actress with Cerebral Palsy Diana Elizabeth Jordan is Veteran of 40 Shows, Shorts and Movies	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/actress-with-cerebral-palsy-diana-elizabeth-jordan-is-veteran-of-17-shows-shorts-and-movies/	February 4, 2018
Deafblind Lawyer Haben Girma Advocates for Disability Rights	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/deafblind-lawyer-haben-girma-advocates-for-disability-rights/	February 5, 2018
Harriet Tubman, Legendary Poet and Civil Rights Activist with Epilepsy, Inspires Generations	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/harriet-tubman- legendary-poet-civil-rights-activist-epilepsy-inspires- generations/	February 10, 2018
First Deaf African American Lawyer Claudia Gordon, Anti- Discrimination Advocate	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/first-deaf-african- american-lawyer-claudia-gordon-anti-discrimination-advocate/	February 10, 2018

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Clarence Page Credits ADHD with Making Him a Better Journalist	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/clarence-page-credits-adhd-with-making-him-a-better-journalist/	February 11, 2018
Olympic & Disability Champion Simone Biles Makes History While Mesmerizing Many	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/olympic-disability-champion-simone-biles-makes-history-mesmerizing-many/	February 11, 2018
One Woman with Disabilities Fight for Freedom For All	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/one-woman-disabilities-fight-freedom/	February 11, 2018
Deborah Calla Serves as Role Model for Inclusion During Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/deborah-calla-serves-role-model-inclusion-jewish-disabilities-awareness-inclusion-month/	February 16, 2018
New York State Falls to 40th in the U.S. in Jobs for People with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/new-york-state-falls-40th-u-s-jobs-people-disabilities/	February 22, 2018
Study Reveals Education and Employment Gaps for Those with Disabilities in California	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/study-reveals-education-employment-gaps-disabilities-california/	February 22, 2018
Muhammad Ali – Dyslexic Role Model Fought in the Ring and for Racial and Social Justice	https://www.respectability.org/2018/02/muhammad-ali-dyslexic-role-model-fought-ring-racial-social-justice/	February 23, 2018
Estudio Revela los datos de Education y Empleo para personas con discapacidad en California	https://www.respectability.org/2018/03/presione-soltar-en-espanol/	March 1, 2018
7,191 new jobs for people with disabilities in Tennessee	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/05/tennessee/	March 5, 2018
4,071 new jobs for people with disabilities in Arkansas	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/arkansas/	March 9, 2018
5,329 new jobs for Hoosiers with disabilities	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/indiana/	March 9, 2018
5,531 people with disabilities lose jobs in Alabama as State Ranked 49 <sup>th</sup> in America	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/alabama/	March 9, 2018
2,305 new jobs for people with disabilities in Maine	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/maine/	March 9, 2018

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4,739 new jobs for people with disabilities in Mississippi	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/mississippi/	March 9, 2018
3,823 new jobs for people with disabilities in Minnesota	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/minnesota/	March 9, 2018
19,978 new jobs for people with disabilities in Michigan	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/michigan/	March 9, 2018
18,349 new jobs for people with disabilities in Kentucky	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/kentucky/	March 9, 2018
5,130 new jobs for people with disabilities in Kansas	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/kansas/	March 9, 2018
12,662 new jobs for people with disabilities in Massachusetts	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/massachusetts/	March 9, 2018
715 new jobs for people with disabilities in Hawaii	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/hawaii/	March 9, 2018
28,642 new jobs for people with disabilities in Georgia	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/georgia/	March 9, 2018
Dennis Daugaard speaks about Jobs for People with Disabilities in South Dakota	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/south-dakota/	March 9, 2018
7,266 new jobs for people with disabilities in Arizona	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/arizona/	March 9, 2018
7,198 new jobs for people with disabilities in Connecticut	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/connecticut/	March 9, 2018
4,139 new jobs for people with disabilities in Alaska	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/alaska/	March 9, 2018
3,477 people with disabilities lose jobs in Rhode Island as State Ranked 47th in America	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/09/rhode-island/	March 9, 2018
931 new jobs for people with disabilities in Vermont	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/13/vermont/	March 13, 2018
6,707 new jobs for people with disabilities in Ohio	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/13/ohio/	March 13, 2018
4,459 new jobs for people with disabilities in Montana	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/13/montana/	March 13, 2018

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14,556 new jobs for people with disabilities in North Carolina	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/13/north-carolina/	March 13, 2018
lowa Lost 2,975 Jobs for People with Disabilities but Still Leads Most States	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/iowa/	March 15, 2018
4,966 new jobs for people with disabilities in Idaho	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/idaho/	March 15, 2018
4,704 new jobs for people with disabilities in North Dakota	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/north-dakota/	March 15, 2018
1,355 new jobs for people with disabilities in New Hampshire	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/new-hampshire/	March 15, 2018
New Governor of New Jersey Promises Jobs for People with Disabilities is a Priority	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/new-jersey/	March 15, 2018
945 new jobs for people with disabilities in New Mexico	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/new-mexico/	March 15, 2018
Gov. Sandoval reiterates commitment to jobs for Nevadans with disabilities	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/nevada/	March 15, 2018
11,000 new jobs for people with disabilities in Oklahoma	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/oklahoma/	March 15, 2018
6,993 new jobs for people with disabilities in Pennsylvania	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/pennsylvania/	March 15, 2018
23,416 new jobs for people with disabilities in South Carolina	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/south-carolina/	March 15, 2018
17,736 new jobs for people with disabilities in Texas	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/texas/	March 15, 2018
3,582 new jobs for people with disabilities in Utah	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/utah/	March 15, 2018
14,479 new jobs for people with disabilities in Virginia	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/virginia/	March 15, 2018
15,871 new jobs for people with disabilities in Washington	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/washington/	March 15, 2018

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3,023 people with disabilities lose jobs in Wyoming	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/15/wyoming/	March 15, 2018
9,550 new jobs for people with disabilities in Illinois	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/19/illinois/	March 19, 2018
5,855 new jobs for people with disabilities in West Virginia	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/19/west-virginia/	March 19, 2018
2,251 people with disabilities lose jobs in Oregon as State Ranked 19th in America	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/27/oregon/	March 27, 2018
3,838 New Jobs for People with Disabilities in Nebraska	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/27/nebraska/	March 27, 2018
669 new jobs for people with disabilities in Missouri	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/27/missouri/	March 27, 2018
5,944 New Jobs for Marylanders with Disabilities	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/27/maryland/	March 27, 2018
2,389 people with disabilities lose jobs in Louisiana as State Ranked 44 <sup>th</sup> in America	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/27/louisiana/	March 27, 2018
Florida Leads on Job Growth for People with Disabilities – over 35,000 new jobs	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/03/27/florida/	March 27, 2018
Gov. Scott Walker Signs Employment First Bill into Law as Wisconsin continues to lead on jobs	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/04/11/wisconsin/	April 11, 2018
Individuals with Autism Overcome Challenges in the Workplace	https://www.respectability.org/2018/05/individuals-with-autism-overcome-challenges-in-the-workplace/	May 9, 2018
Indiana's Campaign Promotes Hiring People with Disabilities	http://therespectabilityreport.org/2018/05/10/indianas- campaign-promotes-hiring-people-with-disabilities/	May 10, 2018
Britain's Got Talent Leads Way in Disability Inclusion	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/britains-got-talent-leads-way-in-disability-inclusion-lee-ridley/	June 4, 2018
Darren Walker, Gay Black Man, is One of the World's Best Allies for People with Disabilities	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/darren-walker-lgbt-pride-month/	June 5, 2018

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Jonathan Murray: Openly Gay Reality Television Pioneer Advocates for Underrepresented Communities	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/jonathan-murray-lgbt-pride-month/	June 5, 2018
More Than One-Third of LGBTQ Adults Identify as Having a Disability	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/lgbt-pride-month-2018/	June 5, 2018
Josh Feldman, Deaf Gay Trailblazer in Hollywood, Discusses the Importance of Representation	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/josh-feldman-lgbt-pride-month/	June 5, 2018
Justin Chappell: Advocate for LGBTQ and Disability Rights Sees Politics as Avenue for Change	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/justin-chappell-lgbt-pride-month/	June 5, 2018
Gay and on the Autism Spectrum: My Experience Growing Up in the Closet	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/ericascherlgbtq/	June 27, 2018
At the Intersection of Deafness, Queerness and Being an Asian- American Woman	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/deafness-queerness-asian-american-woman/	June 27, 2018
Learning About Myself and Coming Into My Own	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/learning-about-myself-and-coming-into-my-own/	June 28, 2018
A Reflection on Truth and Acceptance: When Fear Finds a Home	https://www.respectability.org/2018/06/a-reflection-on-truth-and-acceptance-when-fear-finds-a-home/	June 28, 2018